

# REPORT DOCUMENTATION INFORMATION

AD-A283 164



0488

Using data sources, the aspect of this is, 1215 Jefferson 1503.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington, Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE		3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE				5. FUNDING NUMBERS	
REPORT ON GANG VIOLENCE IN MARYLAND					
6. AUTHOR(S)					
JERRY YATES DRAKE FRIGUSON MARSHALL L. MEYER					
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
MARYLAND				94-114	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE AFIT/CI 2950 P STREET WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB OH 45433-7765					
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT				12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
Approved for Public Release IAW 190-1 Distribution Unlimited MICHEAL M. BRICKER, SMSgt, USAF Chief Administration					
13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)					
14. SUBJECT TERMS				15. NUMBER OF PAGES	
				73	
				16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT		18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE		19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT	
				20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	

DTIC QUALITY INSPECTED 1

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94-114

# **A Report on**

# **GANG VIOLENCE**

# **in Maryland**

94-25395



**The Governor's Executive Advisory Council**

**July 1994**

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Accession For	
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DTIC	TAB <input type="checkbox"/>
Unannounced <input type="checkbox"/>	
Justification .....	
By .....	
Distribution / .....	
Availability Codes	
Dist	Avail and / or Special
A-1	

# **A Report on Gang Violence in Maryland**

**Prepared by the Governor's Executive Advisory Council**

**Marshall M. Meyer, Chairman**

**Drake Ferguson, Vice Chairman**

**Jerry Yates, Vice Chairman**

**Edgar Koch, Sub-Panel on Drug Law Enforcement and Intelligence**

**Tony Avendorph, Committee on Gang Violence in Maryland**

Dear Citizens:

The growing menace caused by gang violence must be addressed by every law enforcement agency. Every effort must be made to limit the threat of violence and criminal acts that permeate so many of our communities.

I have seen the dangers caused to our innocent citizens by gangs and the fear they create by their very presence. Maryland has been infiltrated by gangs as far away as Chicago and California. The growth of juvenile gangs is a deep concern of both our urban and rural communities; no area of the State is immune from the crime and criminality that these gangs are involved in.

I am well aware of the threat to our citizens and to the stability of our State, and I have asked my Executive Advisory Council to study the problem created by all gang groups and to develop a report that can be used as the basis for an in-depth study and analysis of the problem with recommendations for ways and means of dealing with the problem on a state-wide basis.

This request has resulted in this publication, which attempts to document the growing problem of gang violence, describing the nature and extent of its tentacles so that public safety and criminal justice officials will be better equipped to deal with these criminals.

I strongly recommend that public safety officials, communities, and educators work together closely to impede this danger and disruption in our communities.

Sincerely,

Governor

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# **Message from the Council Chairman**

## **The Dangers Posed by Youth Gangs**

Too many Americans still think of gangs as remnants of the Mafia or organized crime; others, mainly parents, think of gangs as groups of neighborhood kids seeking companionship to brag about their day's exploits and express their artistic abilities through graffiti, while wearing distinctive clothing.

The truth about youth gangs is closer to the annual report to the California Legislature by the State's Attorney General, *Organized Crime in California 1987*, which states in part:

Traditional organized crime is, in some respects, the least of our worries. The most troubling developments in organized crime are the transformation of domestic street gangs into huge, violent networks with major drug connections. Even more alarming is the emergence from among the old-fashioned street gangs of some new and very dangerous forms of organized crime. But what the emergent crime groups have in common are increasing sophistication, predatory greed, and a ruthless willingness to use violence and intimidation to achieve their aims.

*MI Journal Report*

The media have long known about the serious gang problems in our nation but have done little to alert the country to the fact that hundreds of criminal gangs in America have become mobile, setting up satellites and "franchises" in likely communities - Maryland being a good example of this strategy for growth.

This report required the experience of many contributors - each aware of the dramatic growth of the street gangs that are proliferating and infesting our communities.

With the concurrence of Governor William Donald Schaefer, who initially ordered this study, the panel will remain intact and will be tasked to go even deeper into the problem - seeking ways and means to reduce the threat by knowing the enemy and his weakness.

One of the salient discoveries of the panel is how little detail is known specifically relating to gangs in Maryland.

Readers are asked to provide research and informational materials to the Council. When a gang activity has affected you, your family or community, or you are a target of extortion or intimidation, notify and trust your law enforcement agency to protect you.

I hope this initial report on gangs in Maryland will assist you and your colleagues in understanding the dangers Maryland faces from gang violence and that your cooperation in providing additional material will make future reports even more valuable.

Sincerely,

Marshall M. Meyer



# **The Committee on Gang Violence in Maryland**

Interest in gang violence in Maryland grew out of a community policing project in Prince George's County. During that project two facts became obvious:

- In spite of widespread denial, criminal gangs do exist in Maryland
- There was virtually no organized information on gangs in Maryland.

These facts made clear to investigators the need to gather whatever sparse information could be collected and to organize it for the benefit of interested persons and to serve as a guideline for the collection of additional information.

The Governor's Executive Advisory Council (GEAC) became convinced of the danger of the problem identified in Prince George's County and in April 1993 set up a Committee on Gang Violence within the Sub-Panel on Drug Law Enforcement and Intelligence of the Panel on Public Safety and Criminal Justice of the GEAC.

The Committee was established with a two-fold mission:

- To take a leading role in raising awareness among state government leaders, law enforcement, and the people of Maryland as to the extent of the gang problem in Maryland and the violence associated with it.
- To prepare a report on gang activity that will provide an informational basis to help reduce gang-related crime and to prevent such crime by channeling young people into positive directions in their communities.

The present paper fulfills the second part of the mission -- the report on gang activity. While the report was being prepared the paucity of organized information specific to gangs in Maryland became evident. On the other hand, considerable information is available on gangs in other states, and there appears to be influence on Maryland gangs by gangs in other states, as well as characteristics that are common to criminal gangs regardless of geography.

With that in mind, it was believed desirable to place the little that is known of Maryland gangs against the background of gang activity in other parts of the United States.

Since May 1993, the committee has met monthly, researching the juvenile gang problem in Maryland, bringing together law enforcement, schools, churches, and community organizations in identifying juvenile gangs, and discussing alternatives to the problem. There is now an awareness for the first time that criminal juvenile gangs exist in Maryland. Drug-oriented gangs evolve from juvenile gangs. Such gangs at the local level are dangerous enough, but if they become controlled or heavily influenced by larger, better organized gangs from outside the state they can become even more dangerous and violent.



## **Committee Membership**

### **Law Enforcement**

Cpl. Tony Avendorph	Committee Chairman, Prince George's County Police Department
Sgt. Terry Katz	Maryland State Police
Sgt. Sid Branham	Baltimore County Police Department
Det. Ronald Hines	Anne Arundel County Police Department
Sgt. Kurt Ellinger	Baltimore Police Department
Det. Marco Miranda	Baltimore Police Department
Det. Mark Lindsey	Baltimore Police Department
Officer John Jones	Baltimore City Schools Police Department
Agent Lloyd Bowser	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Agent Jerry Rice	Federal Bureau of Investigation
Mr. Sam Saxton	Director, Prince George's County Department of Corrections

### **Judicial and Juvenile Services**

Jeff Wennar	Chief, Juvenile Division, Prince George's County State's Attorney's Office
Ms. Joyce Wright	Chief, Juvenile Courts, Baltimore City
Mr. John Buffington	State of Maryland, Department of Juvenile Services

### **Schools**

Mr. Chuck Paris	Security Team Leader, Watkins Mill High School, Montgomery County
Mr. Dennis Curry	Human Relations Specialist, Prince George's County Schools
Mrs. Carolyn Hall	Wicomico County Council of PTA's



## **Acknowledgments**

**The Bureau of Justice Assistance, Washington, D.C.**

**The Chicago Police Department**

**The Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice, Washington, D.C.**

**The Lakewood, Colorado Police Department**

**The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department**

**The Maryland State Police**

**The National Gang Research Center, Chicago, Illinois**

**The committee wishes to thank Captain Thomas H. Carr, Maryland State Police, for making available the following members of his editorial staff in the development of this report: John Bacon, Valerie Hicks, and Gina Hilger.**

**A special thank you to Chief David B. Mitchell, Lt. Colonel Edward Adams, the late Major Larry D. Bowman, Major Alfonso Hawkins, Captain Hollis White, Lieutenant Richard Pounsberry, and Sergeant Clifford Mack of the Prince George's County Police Department for allowing me to work on this project.**

*Corporal Tony Avendorph (PC)  
Committee on Gang Violence in Maryland*



## **A Request to Criminal Justice Executives and Law Enforcement Officials**

The Committee on Gang Violence in Maryland has been authorized to continue its study and analysis of gang violence. A second report will be issued in early 1995 that will include follow-up information and recommendations made by criminal justice executives and law enforcement officials.

Since gangs sometimes cross state borders and move from coast to coast, the committee will continue to work with out-of-state law enforcement. The committee will also continue to act as a repository for gang information in the service of interested parties.

All criminal justice executives and law enforcement officials are urged to study this report carefully. This first report has uncovered gaps in information and, the authors hope, has pointed the way toward dealing with some aspects of the gang problem. We urge all readers to forward information to the committee to fill in the gaps in our knowledge and to keep us current with new developments. Any and all recommendations for innovative approaches toward dealing with the problem are welcome.

You may communicate with the committee through its Chairman, Corporal Tony Avendorph, Prince George's County Police Department, (301) 336-2375.

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The Governor's Executive Advisory Council  
The Office of the Governor  
301 W. Preston Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Printed July 1994

## Different Ways of Defining Gangs

The dictionary has two definitions for the word "gang":

- a group of people, usually young, who associate regularly on a social basis
- a group of criminals or hoodlums who band together for mutual protection and profit.

These definitions emphasize the two major divisions among gangs – there are social gangs and there are criminal gangs. Experience tells us that there can be overlapping between the two divisions. In addition, one observes different characteristics within criminal gangs. This experience and observation exacerbates the semantic confusion concerning gangs and underlies the debate as to whether there are gangs in Maryland. The confusion is further exacerbated by the lack among law enforcement and academic personnel of a definition to describe the "gang" phenomenon as it is experienced in the United States in the early 1990s.

The following criteria for gangs are used by the federal government:

- formal organizational structure
- identifiable leadership
- identification with a territory
- recurrent interaction
- engaging in serious or violent behavior.

The Committee on Gang Violence in Maryland defines a gang for purposes of this study as a group of individuals who form an alliance for a common purpose and engage in violent, unlawful or criminal activity. By examining the seriousness of crimes committed, three levels of gangs can be identified:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>Level One</b>   | Crimes qualifying within the RICO statute as racketeering, violations of federal firearms statutes, major felonies such as rape, aggravated assault, robbery, homicide, and shooting. |
| <b>Level Two</b>   | Felonies such as drug distribution and violent misdemeanors such as simple assault and carrying a concealed deadly weapon.  |
| <b>Level Three</b> | Misdemeanors such as possession of drugs, lesser violence, and vandalism.   |

The committee also distinguished juvenile gangs in Maryland by four characteristics:



<b>Cultural</b>	Defined by nationality, ethnicity or other distinctive cultural traits.
<b>Territorial</b>	Protection of the group's neighborhood or area claimed as its territory (or "turf").
<b>Corporate</b>	Highly organized and structured gangs.
<b>Scavenger</b>	Groups that are loosely organized and that may have a large number of adherents.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has commented that

Gangs can be said to be a group of three or more individuals bonded together by race, national origin, culture, or territory, who associate on a continual basis for the purpose of committing criminal acts.

The FBI has also commented that one of the basic obstacles in addressing gang activity is the absence of a universal definition.

Finally, another way of defining gangs is as follows:

<b>Crew</b>	A loosely-knit association of street youths, whose primary reason for association is criminal activity. Many drug-dealing groups call themselves crews.
<b>Gang</b>	A group of people who form an alliance for a common purpose such as social activity or mutual support. They may be an innocent clique and they may or may not engage in criminal activity.
<b>Taggers</b>	Individuals or groups whose primary interest is graffiti writing. Taggers may form into gangs or be used by established gangs for gang purposes such as establishing territorial limits.

Gangs, by whatever name, are drawn from young people, in themselves a highly fluid, highly volatile, and largely unsophisticated group. A forming gang, made up largely of people from the same neighborhood or school, is more likely to make up rules that it likes, than to follow slavishly the half-understood practices of a distant group. Thus, by the time a listing of gang terms is written down it will be out of date. Hand-signs will be modified, and those used in one part of the country may be unknown everywhere else. Gangdom does not have a set of rules or a manual.

# **Gangs in Maryland**

## **Overview**

### **Gang Make-up**

In Maryland, juvenile gangs may include members from as young as seven to the mid-twenties. The size of gangs is mostly unknown. In one instance, however, the Forest Creek Crew in Prince George's County, a territorially-based gang, is estimated to have about 65 members in a loosely-knit grouping of young people from eleven to 25-years old.

Another Maryland example is the Folks, or Gangster Disciples, also in Prince George's, which is modeled on the Folks gang in Chicago. This gang, which is school-based, is reported to have about 25 members. It engages in such activities as assaults and graffiti-writing.

### **Gang Identifiers**

The use of distinctive clothing as a gang identifier is not widely practiced in Maryland. By far the most commonly found color worn by gang members is black. Similarly, hand-signs and tattoos are not widely used. However, the Folks gang uses to some extent the hand-signs and language used by the group in Chicago, and members of the Seat Pleasant Crew wear a baseball cap with the letters SPC. Asian gangs in Northern Virginia have identifiable tattoos and scars from cigarette burns on their hands. Members from these gangs have attempted to recruit Asian youths in Prince George's and Montgomery counties.

Graffiti by taggers and other gangs is widespread in the state.

### **Recruitment of Members**

Recruitment of gang members is normally done within a single neighborhood, apartment complex, or school. There has been some evidence of the presence of gang members, or persons claiming to be gang members, from Chicago (Black Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Latin Kings) in Prince George's and Montgomery counties. In Clinton, Prince George's County, it has been reported that at a high school two students from Chicago have attempted to organize students for the Chicago Folks gang, indoctrinating students into Folks concepts and discipline. Graffiti identified as pertaining to the Folks has been found on thirty buildings in Clinton.

In a similar vein, there has been some suggestion of the activity of Los Angeles gangs (Crips and Bloods) in those two counties, as well as in the city of Baltimore and in Baltimore County. Details, however, are lacking.

There seems to be some effort among gangs to form alliances but, again, details are lacking. Instances of violent conflict between rival drug trafficking gangs in Maryland, however, have been documented.

### **Initiations of Gang Members**

Gang members in Maryland who are police informants have reported that their initiation (or "jump in") into a gang consisted in their being beaten by several gang members for two or three minutes. Other more violent initiations or qualifying burglaries have been reported but confirmation is lacking.

### **Weapons**

Although it is illegal in Maryland for juveniles to own firearms, it is easy for juveniles to get them. Handguns, including semi-automatic weapons, are apparently the choice of most gang members. Handgun violence, not only among drug dealers but also in schools, is prevalent in the state.

### **Gangs and Drugs**

It is perhaps a fine distinction whether drug dealers form a gang or whether a gang becomes involved in dealing drugs; whether a drug dealer employs juveniles for reasons of added security and increased profit, or whether a juvenile is involved in drug dealing because he is a member of a juvenile gang. The fact is that many juveniles are involved in drug distribution gangs.

### **Types of Juvenile Gangs**

On page 2, gangs were distinguished by four characteristics: cultural, territorial, corporate, and scavenger.

Juvenile criminal gangs in Maryland can be listed under all four.

Cultural gangs exist in Prince George's and Montgomery counties and in Baltimore City, where there are significant Hispanic and Asian populations, in particular Salvadorian, Honduran, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean. These gangs recruit from and carry out criminal activities against their own ethnic or nationality groups.

Territorial gangs predominate in Baltimore and in the Baltimore and Washington suburbs. Their territory may be a neighborhood, a street (Walker Mill Road), an apartment complex (Murphy Homes), or a shopping center (Prince George's Plaza). These groups identify themselves through graffiti, assaults, intimidation, drugs, vehicle thefts, robberies, and shootings. They recruit inside schools, using self-protection as a main selling point.

Corporate gangs from urban environments outside the state, such as the Crips, Gangster Disciples, or Latin Kings have been reported attempting to recruit in Prince George's County, Montgomery County, and Baltimore City. These groups have a nationwide network of criminal enterprises, ranging from drugs and prostitution to contract murders. A teenage boy from Colorado Springs, Colorado, living and attending school in Prince George's County, said that he is a Crip gang member and that Los Angeles-based Crip and Blood gang members have begun to organize recruiting and drug networks in Maryland because they believe that law enforcement in Maryland is not familiar with gangs on this level.

Scavenger gangs consist of juveniles born and raised in Maryland who on their own are attempting to carve a niche for themselves. Not all of these groups are criminal. Most begin as social groups, or juveniles, gathering on a street corner or by a particular locker at their school. While many remain at that level or go on to other activities in their lives, some develop into criminal gangs.

## **Press Reporting**

***Strong as Steel.*** A Baltimore heroin distribution gang. Four persons ranging between 25 and 37 years of age were indicted in April 1994 for federal drug and weapons charges, armed robberies, and burglaries. The four were also facing state charges on three killings.

***Old York Road Boys and the McCabe Avenue Boys.*** One of the leaders of the McCabe Avenue Boys was sentenced to 25 years in prison for his third drug conviction. He was also under indictment for murder in a drive-by shooting that left two dead and six wounded as part of a feud carried on with the Old York Road Boys gang.

***The New York Boys.*** As early as 1984, heroin and cocaine dealers came to Baltimore from New York, selling their drugs on selected street corners. These dealers, in time, formed gangs and established a level of permanency. One Baltimore police detective familiar with the New Yorkers estimated that between 1,500 and 2,000 of them were working in the drug trade in Baltimore. That number included three large-scale organizations. The New York Boys are generally associated with considerable violence. (The name "New York Boys" is not a gang name. Rather, it is a generic identifier used by both local dealers and police.)

***The Anthony Jones Gang.*** An 18-year old drug dealer arrested in October 1991 repeatedly organized and ran a multi-million dollar drug distribution gang. He was said to be one of the "new breed" of drug traffickers, who took drugs out of their usual habitats, such as bars and pool rooms into open air markets. The "new breed" is also responsible for bringing children, sometimes as young as 11-years old, into the drug trade. The newer drug criminals have not had the benefit of learning their trade from established organizations. They make more money in a shorter time, but the life expectancy of their criminal career is very short. Their lack of understanding of the drug trade also leads to a greater number of violent conflicts.

***The Murray Brothers Gang.*** This gang was led by three brothers from Jamaica. The arrest of the last of the brothers in January 1994 ended a five-year reign at the Hoffman and Holbrook streets open air market. The Murray Brothers brought

cocaine into Baltimore from New York and organized a network of distributors who enforced order with high-powered handguns and assault rifles. Police attributed eight deaths and 24 injuries to their activities.

**Jamaican Black Mafia.** This gang was made up largely of Nigerians who distributed heroin in public housing developments in 1991 and 1992. They called themselves Jamaican believing that the Jamaican reputation for violence would help them intimidate their customers. The organization's violence was backed with a sophisticated arsenal and extended to firebombing a police car. At least three members of the gang were charged with killing their own colleagues in disputes over money.

**Young Black Mafia (YBM).** This is a group of five young Baltimore rap musicians. The group produced one tape but was also allegedly involved in drug trafficking. Two of its members have been charged in two shootings and another was shot and seriously wounded in a drug turf dispute.

**Gang Activity in Montgomery County.** An eight-to-ten member group of high school students in Montgomery County formed a gang that partied, played basketball, and protected one another in school. When accused of a serious crime, of which they were cleared, a member told a reporter that they gave themselves a name because they felt that they needed a name for their basketball team. He said that although they drank beer together, they did not use or sell drugs.

**Gang Activity in Prince George's County.** A criminal gang composed of Chinese nationals was discovered in Prince George's County in April 1994. The gang was part of a network that smuggled illegal Chinese immigrants into the United States.

## **Official Information**

In October 1993, Stuart O. Simms, State's Attorney in Baltimore, said that signs of gang activity were increasing in Baltimore. Mr. Simms said that the juvenile unit in the prosecutor's office found that young people involved in crimes who claimed affiliation with a "crew" tended to be repeat offenders. Mr. Simms was quoted as saying: "We've been looking at the problem here for a year now....There are gangs in this city."

Police officials, however, disputed Mr. Simm's characterization of violent youth activity as the work of gangs. They said that those involved in gangs in Baltimore are fewer in number and less sophisticated in organization than gang members elsewhere.

In the spring of 1992 the Council of Government of the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area conducted a "Gang Survey" to determine the "scope and extent of gang activity" in the

area. The following groupings were counted as "gangs": delinquent youth, traditional turf-based groups, gain-oriented groups, and violent hate groups. Results of the survey follow:

Jurisdiction	Number of Gangs	Number of Gang Members	
		Core Group †	Core Group & Associates ‡
Washington, D.C.	50	300-500	1,010-1,500
Virginia	30	168	229
Maryland			
Greenbelt	1	18	35
Prince George's County	15	35	140

† Core Group includes regular members who are committing law offenses.

‡ Core Group & Associates includes hard core regulars, associates, and aspirants ("wannabes").

Frederick County said it had not experienced any gang activity.

Montgomery County did not respond to the survey. However, Captain Robert McKenna of the Montgomery County Police Department was quoted in the press as saying Montgomery County has "groups of adolescents who hang together" in Silver Spring and Gaithersburg and sometimes leave graffiti.

In November 1992 the Criminal Intelligence Division of the Maryland State Police wrote an *Initial Gang Assessment for the State of Maryland*. The report broke down gangs into: Class A, involved in crimes of violence; Class B, involved in non-violent felonies or drug trafficking; and Class C, involved with misdemeanors, particularly those considered delinquent behavior. Throughout the state, gangs were identified as follows:

Locality	Number of Gangs	Number of Members	Class
Eastern Shore	4	39-41	A
Eastern Shore	3	35-45	C
Prince George's County	20	Unknown	A
Baltimore Area	3	110	A
Baltimore City	4	Unknown	A
Biker Gangs	9	116-121	A
Prison Gangs	4	Unknown	A

The Committee on Gang Violence of the Governor's Executive Advisory Council collected data in 1993 and 1994 on gangs in Baltimore City and five Maryland counties.

### **Anne Arundel County**

No juvenile gang activity was reported within the county. The committee was not able to obtain information from Annapolis or from the Anne Arundel County Board of Education.

There are indications of graffiti or "tagging" throughout the county, mostly in the eastern part of the county and on the outskirts of Annapolis. This may be an early indication of juvenile gang activity.

### **Baltimore City**

The committee found that most juvenile gangs in the city are found in the schools and in neighborhoods near the schools. The problem appears to be growing in the city. The following "gang" names have been identified in Baltimore City. It should be noted that these gangs have not been characterized by type; that is, whether criminal or not.

- Black Mafia
- CBS
- Cherry Hill Group
- Collington Organized Group (Collington Avenue)
- Crypts
- Donald Heights
- Dutch Village
- East Side Dog Pound
- East Side Mob
- The Federal Street Posse
- Hollander Roads
- Junction Crew
- Lil Dutch
- M&B (Madison and Bradford)
- Marble Hall
- McCabe Boys
- Monroe and Ridge
- Murphy Homes
- NFL
- North and Pulaski
- OYC (Old York and Cater)
- Park Heights
- SCU
- Skinheads
- The Southern Boys
- Swansea Boys

TC 93 (Taggers?)  
20th and Barclay  
White Mafia

## **Baltimore County**

The Baltimore County Police Department has prepared a *Gang Assessment Guideline* to:

- Provide objective criteria in determining whether a "group" constitutes a gang or if an individual is a member of a gang.
- Differentiate between a street gang and a youth gang.
- Categorize gangs into "classes."

Baltimore County has classified juvenile gangs according to patterns of behavior:

- Class A** Any gang that is involved in felonies and violent, assaultive activity such as homicide, rape, armed robbery, etc. The criminal activity also includes narcotics trafficking, if in conjunction with violent behavior.
- Class B** Any gang involved in felony crimes or trafficking in narcotics, absent a pattern of violent behavior.
- Class C** A gang involved in misdemeanor crimes, particularly those consistent with delinquent behavior. The majority of these incidents are destruction of property, graffiti, petty thefts, and minor assaults.

The following gangs have been divided into precincts:

### **Precinct 1**

The Baltimore Highlands Mafia (A)  
Vandals of the First World (A)

### **Precinct 2**

Campfield Posse (B)  
Cross Creek Posse (A)  
4 Nasty Boys  
Kings

### **Precinct 3**

Black Dragons  
Blunt Bunch



## **Precinct 6**

CRP'S (B)

## **Precinct 12**

D.C. Crew (B)  
Insane Bloods (B)  
Wawa Posse (C)

## **Wicomico County**

Wicomico County has experienced an increase in juvenile gang activity within the past year, consisting mainly of assaults and vandalism, with a mixture of random and racially motivated incidents.

Black Mafia (An all white gang)  
Camden Court Posse  
Choir Boys  
40 Ounce Posse  
Get Busy Posse  
Ghetto Busters  
JBM (Junior Black Mafia)  
Jersey Road Boys  
Kool Aid Kids  
PRP (Puerto Rican Posse)  
Skinheads  
32 Ounce Posse  
West Side Boys  
Yellow Jackets  
Yosha

## **Montgomery County**

Montgomery County is experiencing "taggers" and other juvenile gangs. Bordering on the District of Columbia, Montgomery County has seen an increase in Asian and Hispanic gangs in the Wheaton and Silver Spring areas and traveling into the county from Northern Virginia. Montgomery County schools have seen an increase in campus related incidents, with outsiders coming onto the campuses attempting to recruit students. Montgomery County is also experiencing an increase in hate crimes, specifically against Muslim and Middle Eastern groups.

## **Taggers**

Alpha Omega	AO
Big Time Graffiti	BIG
Devils Art Gang	DAG
East Side Crew	ESC
East Side Hit Squad	ECHS
Everlasting Writers	ELW
Fuck You Crew	FYC
Furious Fighting Crew	FFC
Go A Head Crew	GHC
Good Hope Hustlers	GHH
Home Style Art	HSA
Juvenile Tagging Crew	JTC
Kings of Fame	KOF
Klepto Graffiti Brothers	KGB
Looney Benz of Chaos	LBOK
Murder Capitol Art	MCA
New Age Art	NAA
Out of Control Kids	OCK
Risky Art Form	RAF
Six Twelve Crew	6-12
Skilled to Kill	SKK
Sports Crew	Sports
Still Gettin' Up	SGU
Suicide Crew	SC
True Midnight Express	TME
Twinbrook Boys	TB
Wheaton Bomb Crew	WBC
Writers on Rampage	WOR

## **Juvenile Gangs**

Ace  
Black Gangster Disciples/Folks Nation  
East Side Crew  
Fuk Ching  
Head Banger Crew  
King Brown  
Korean Killers  
Korean Power  
La Raza  
Latin Boys  
Latin Kings  
Lynchmob Crew  
Maple Avenue Crew  
124

Rollingwood  
Satan Disciples  
6-12  
Sok Ho  
White Tigers

The Black Gangster Disciples and the Folks Nation are one and the same. The Black Gangster Disciples, a Chicago based street gang, have always represented themselves as "Folks." The Latin Kings are also a Chicago-based Puerto Rican street gang.

## **Prince George's County**

The committee discovered that of the six jurisdictions, Prince George's County has experienced the heaviest concentration of juvenile groups. Of the 115 juvenile groups identified, 60 percent are composed of juveniles who have given themselves a name, congregate together, and look out for one another. The remaining 35 percent have been identified as criminally oriented and have been linked to violent activity. These groups are divided into the six police districts in Prince George's County. The largest number of these groups are situated in the police districts that share a common border with the District of Columbia.

### **District I (Hyattsville)**

Apollo (Riverdale)  
Belford Towers Crew  
College Park Crew  
Eighteenth Street (EST)  
85th Avenue Crew  
El Cholos  
Highview Crew (Highview Apartments)  
Kaywood  
La Salle Crew  
Lamada  
Lamada Loco (Langley Park)  
Landover Hills Crew  
Latin Boys  
Latin Kings  
Lewisdale Crew  
Mattapony (450 Crew)  
New York Posse  
North Carrollton Crew  
Ridge Crest Crew (Chillum - Prince George's Plaza)  
16th Avenue Crew  
64th Avenue Crew

**District II (Bowie)**

Black Pegasus Crew  
Damage Inc.  
4 Horsemen  
Greenbelt Crew  
Meadows Mob  
193 Crew  
Psycho Ward  
The Skaters (Free State Mall)  
The Skinheads  
Springhill Lake Crew  
TKO (Seabrook)  
Whitfield Chapel Crew  
Wiggers

**District III (Landover, District Heights, Forestville, Seat Pleasant)**

A-1 Crew (Chapel Oaks)  
Back Roads Crew (Fairmont Heights)  
Belle Haven Crew (Belle Haven Apartments)  
Brick Wall Crew (Penn-Southern Apartments)  
Brightseat Road Crew  
Chapel Oaks Crew  
Columbia Park Crew  
Dodge Park Crew  
F. Street Mob  
Fairfax Crew (Capitol Crossing)  
Forest Creek Crew (Forest Creek Apartments)  
Forest Dwellers (Penn-Mar Shopping Center)  
Gas Station Crew (District Heights)  
Glenarden Crew  
Hill Road Crew  
Hillcrest Crew  
Hilltop Crew (Hilltop Apartments)  
Kentland Crew  
Landover Crew  
Little Kentland Crew  
Maryland Park Group  
Mellwood Crew  
Nalley Road Crew  
Niggers with Attitudes (District of Columbia)  
Palmer Park Crew  
Putos Locos (Central High School)  
Rushtown Crew (Suitland)  
Seat Pleasant Crew  
Seat Pleasant Mob  
Shadyside Crew

**Walker Mill Bunch**

- a. Walker Mill Road Crew
- b. ANA
- c. Tom's Boys

186 Crew (5500 Marlboro Pike)  
187 Crew (Wellington Square Apartments)  
202 Crew  
214 Crew (Central Gardens Apartments)  
22 Crips  
25 Hour Crew (Dodge Park)  
301 Crew  
402 (Capitol Heights)  
409 Crew  
48 Crew (Rochelle Avenue)  
501 Crew  
520 Crew (5240 Marlboro Pike)  
808 Crew (Landover)

**District IV (Oxon Hill)**

Barkada (Filipino - Fort Washington)  
Blackwell Group  
Curtis Hill Crew (Curtis Drive)  
Duce (Southview Apartments)  
Elroy Place (Fort Washington)  
Glassmanor Crew  
Indian Queens Crew  
Lynchmob Crew  
Marcy avenue Crew  
Maury Avenue Crew  
Morningside Posse  
Neptune Crew  
Oxon Hill Crew  
Park 16 (Vermilion Avenue)  
Riverside (Riverside Apartments)  
Robelee Gang (Robelee Acres)  
Shadow High  
Skyline Mob (Morningside)  
Southlawn  
2 Damn Hype Crew  
Windbrook 505 (Windbrook Estates)  
103 Crew (Oxon Hill Village, Potomac High School)  
414 Crew (Temple Hills)  
503 (Brookside Apartments)

### **District V (Clinton)**

Alley Crew  
Bloods (Surrattsville High School)  
Crips (Surrattsville High School)  
5 No Crew  
.45 Caliber Crew  
Gangster Disciples/Folks (Surrattsville High School)  
Justice Gang  
Ramblewood Avenue (RWA)

### **District VI (Beltsville, Laurel)**

Bellfield Towers  
Beltcrest Crew  
Partners in Crime (PIC)  
Springhill Lake Crew (also in District II)  
212 (Powder Mill Apartments/Calverton Shopping Center)

### **Countywide Juvenile Groups**

Newtowne 20  
Wrecking Crew

## **Maryland Prison Gangs**

Prison gangs have become a "feeder" mechanism for juveniles and young adults returning back to the community. The committee included prison-oriented gangs for two reasons. First, juvenile gangs have become the "new wave" prison gangs. They have, in essence, replaced the traditional prison gangs, such as the Aryan Brotherhood or Black Guerilla Family, and are larger in number. Secondly, gang members are eventually released and need to be identified before they return to the community. These gangs are either reported as a risk problem by the United States Bureau of Prisons, or just active membership within a particular institution. The list is a composite of traditional prison gangs (P), motorcycle gangs (M), hate groups (H), street gangs (S), and ethnic gangs (E).

Aryan Brotherhood (P)  
Aryan Circle (P)  
Aryan Nation (P)  
BGD's (S)  
Black Gangsters (S)  
Black Guerilla Family (P)  
Black Mafia (unknown)  
Bloods (S)  
Brothers of the Struggle (P)  
Crips (S)

Fates Assembly (M)  
Five Percenters (P)  
Fruits of Islam (P)  
Giants (unknown)  
Head Bangers (P)  
Hell Raisers (M)  
Hells Angels (M)  
Humboldt (unknown)  
Insane Vice Lords (S)  
Intervale (unknown)  
KKK (H)  
Knights (unknown)  
Knockers Bloods (unknown)  
Mad Dogs (P)  
Mexican Mafia (P)  
Moors (E)  
MSTA (unknown)  
Neo-Nazis (H)  
Organization of African Unity (unknown)  
Outlaws (M)  
Pagans (M)  
Peoples (unknown)  
Posse (E)  
Raiders (unknown)  
Skinheads (H)  
Warriors (unknown)  
White Knights (unknown)  
X-Men (unknown)

## **Committee Activities and Recommendations**

Law enforcement in Maryland is committed to identifying and understanding the various types of gangs, both juvenile and adult, that exist in the state. There is also a strong commitment by school systems to provide leadership and alternative programs to stem youth violence within the school systems. The committee also found community-based organizations eager to provide intervention and preventive choices.

### **Recommendations**

#### **The Committee**

1. Establish the committee on a permanent basis and continue to meet monthly to update its research, and to provide leadership and guidance to law enforcement personnel, schools, prosecutors, the judiciary, and the public in cooperative activities and information sharing. The committee should provide information that comes to its attention concerning organized criminal gang activity, including graffiti that identifies gangs in the state.
2. Follow through on approaches by law enforcement authorities from Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia who have contacted the committee with the suggestion of forming a regional gang task force concentrating on juvenile criminal gangs formed by African Americans, Hispanics, and Asians.
3. Delineate the scope of the committee's activities. Should it be concerned with gangs in the broadest possible definition or limit itself to youth (or juvenile) gangs? If the latter, should gangs involved only in misdemeanors (e.g. taggers) be included? Should the committee's interest be more restrictive in matters of law enforcement than in matters of prevention in schools?
4. Establish standard gang definitions, descriptions of types of gangs, criteria, and classifications for adoption throughout the state.
5. Encourage law enforcement to make a concerted, continuous, organized effort to collect and disseminate through the committee information on gangs according to statewide definitions, criteria, and classifications. Information collected should include the names of gangs; their territory or their geographic location; type of gang (drug dealing, taggers, social, etc.); number of members; type or types of criminal activity engaged in, if any; age range of members; racial, ethnic, sport, hobby, cultural, political, or other traits held in common by members; identifying symbols such as graffiti, clothing, and tattoos.
6. Devote special attention to establishing cooperation between school authorities and law enforcement in order to develop information on gang activities in schools.



7. Assemble this school information together with an overview of gang activity in Maryland, in periodic, follow-up studies in a standardized format.
8. Develop a statewide database system on gang activity, which would feed into municipal and county law enforcement agencies, state and county correctional facilities, and school systems.
9. Develop juvenile gang units in jurisdictions with the heaviest concentration of juvenile gang activity.
10. Place police officers inside selected schools, or provide regular patrols to ensure the safety of the students and staff.
11. Form a liaison with the Metropolitan Police Department in the District of Columbia and law enforcement agencies in Northern Virginia to share information.
12. Consider state and local legislation that targets gang activity, gang violence, street terrorism, intimidation, extortion, and drive-by shootings. Anti-loitering laws, and graffiti ordinances might be considered.
13. Enlist the assistance of the United States Attorney's office in enforcement of federal statutes such as the RICO Racketeering statutes, 18 USC 924 (c); possession of a firearm with drugs; a mandatory five years with no parole, felon in possession of a firearm, and drug kingpin statutes.
14. Consider juvenile witness protection programs for youths under eighteen years of age.

#### **School-based Strategies**

1. Gather information on potential youth problems in schools.
2. Adopt gang awareness programs geared towards youth involvement, such as:
  - The G.R.E.A.T. program (Gang Resistance Education and Training) sponsored by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. This program focuses on seventh grade students, and Prince George's County recently received a \$400,000.00 grant for this program in seven middle schools.
  - The Watkins Mill High School (Montgomery County) Violence Prevention Crew, and God, Guns, "n" Gangs are programs that prevent violence.
  - Establish anti-gang philosophies with police departments by sharing information.
  - Establish a student dress awareness program that discourages wearing gang colors and other symbols.

- Organize parental awareness programs.
  - Adopt Board of Education policies on gangs:
    - ✓ schoolyard and campus disturbances
    - ✓ prevention education
    - ✓ community outreach
    - ✓ intervention measures
3. Require law enforcement agencies to inform school systems of students with criminal backgrounds.

### **Community Based Strategies**

1. **STOP INC. (Standing Together for Our Protection).** This is a community based program in Prince George's County with three components:

The first is enforcement, which includes community-oriented policing, establishing a boot camp for non-violent offenders, a task force to develop a comprehensive gang policy, and enforcing laws that hold parents accountable for their children's violent offenses.

The second is intervention, which requires a conflict resolution curriculum at all grade levels, establishing a clearinghouse for intervention programs to develop systems of networking to bid for funds, share data, and interface resources, and establishing, through the courts, programs that provide drug testing, alternative punishments, and job training and counseling for non-violent drug offenders who have been sentenced to probation.

The third component is prevention, which requires a violence and gang prevention curriculum at middle school grade levels, such as the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.), which is sponsored by ATF. The religious community would also conduct violence prevention and gang prevention activities at all levels.

2. **The Center for Violence Prevention.** This is a community-based program funded by the W.K. Kellogg foundation, headquartered at Bowie State University. It has a four pronged approach:
- A parent based component
  - A school based component
  - A church based component
  - A community based component

## **Appendixes**



## **Appendix I**

### **Gang Identifiers**



# Gang Identifiers

The following list of symbols, markings, and clothing may aid in the identification of street gang members.

*Please Note: While these items have been reported in various parts of the United States, the list is not all inclusive. These signs and symbols are constantly evolving and changing and may vary from one region to another. Many items have either a Chicago or L.A. connection. It should also be noted that, if a person has one of these identifiers, it does not necessarily mean that he or she is a gang member.*

## Signs and Symbols

### The Left or Right Rule

#### Left Side

Vice Lords, 2-1, Bloods, and other gangs associated with them routinely wear clothing items and other symbols on the left side of the body

#### Right Side

Disciples, Hellraisers, Crips, and other gangs associated with them routinely wear clothing items and other symbols on the right side of the body

### Stars

#### Five Pointed Stars

Displayed by Vice Lords, 2-1, and other gangs affiliated with them

#### Six Pointed Stars

Displayed by Disciples, Hellraisers, and other gangs affiliated with them

### Rabbit Head

#### Straight Ears Bent Ear(s)

Worn by Vice Lords  
Worn by Disciples

## Body Markings

### Earrings

#### Left Ear

Worn by Vice Lords and gangs associated with them

**Right Ear**

Worn by 2-1 gang members (two earrings in the left ear and one in the right ear)

**Nose**

Worn on the left or right side, depending on the gang

### **Fingernails**

Some gang members have been coloring their fingernails with gang colors. Usually two nails on either the left or right hand (depending on which side is associated with the gang) are painted.

### **Tattoos**

Gang members sometimes wear tattoos or graffiti. Occasionally these markings are placed on the wrong side to show disrespect for the rival gang.

## **Clothing and Other Accessories**

### **Bandannas**

Red and worn to the left  
Blue and worn to the right

Vice Lords, 2-1, and Bloods  
Disciples, Hellraisers, and Crips

Bandannas are usually worn in a pocket or on a belt loop or tied around the head, wrist, or leg.

### **Buttons**

Gang members sometimes wear buttons imprinted with various emblems, logos, or slogans.

### **Combs**

Gang members will sometimes stick a comb in their hair or beard. The comb will be placed on the side (left or right) that symbolizes the gang. This practice originally started in the prison system but has been seen on the streets.

### **Hats**

Tilted to the left  
Tilted to the right

Vice Lords and 2-1  
Disciples and Hellraisers

Examples of types of hats - L.A. Raiders, L.A. Kings, Chicago Bulls, and New York Yankees



## **Jackets**

Examples of types of jackets - L.A. Raiders, L.A. Kings, Chicago Bulls, Georgetown, San Francisco 49'ers, Sox

## **Jelly Bracelets**

A jelly bracelet is a colored rubber or plastic loop that is worn around the wrist. These bracelets may be worn in multiples representing the gang colors. Sometimes a second bracelet can be attached and worn around a finger and wrist together like a "slave bracelet."

Note: Caution should be used because these bracelets are popular with non-gang members.

## **Jewelry**

Gang members may display their symbols (five or six pointed stars, rabbit heads, etc.) on jewelry such as necklaces, earrings, and keyrings. Recently, members of the Disciples have been noted wearing jewelry with the Italian horn. The horn is said to represent the devil's horn, which is part of the Disciples' logo.

## **Roller Skate Laces**

Tied up and down on the left side	Vice Lords and 2-1
Tied up and down on the right side	Disciples and Hellraisers

## **Sweatshirts**

Gang members may wear hooded sweatshirts with jackets over them. The hood usually hangs out over the collar of the jacket. Typically the color of the hood and the color of the jacket represent the gang colors.

Adapted from *Gang Identifiers...Things to Remember*, the Chicago Police Department, Gang Crimes Unit



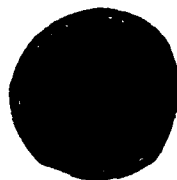
## **Appendix II**

### **Tattoos**



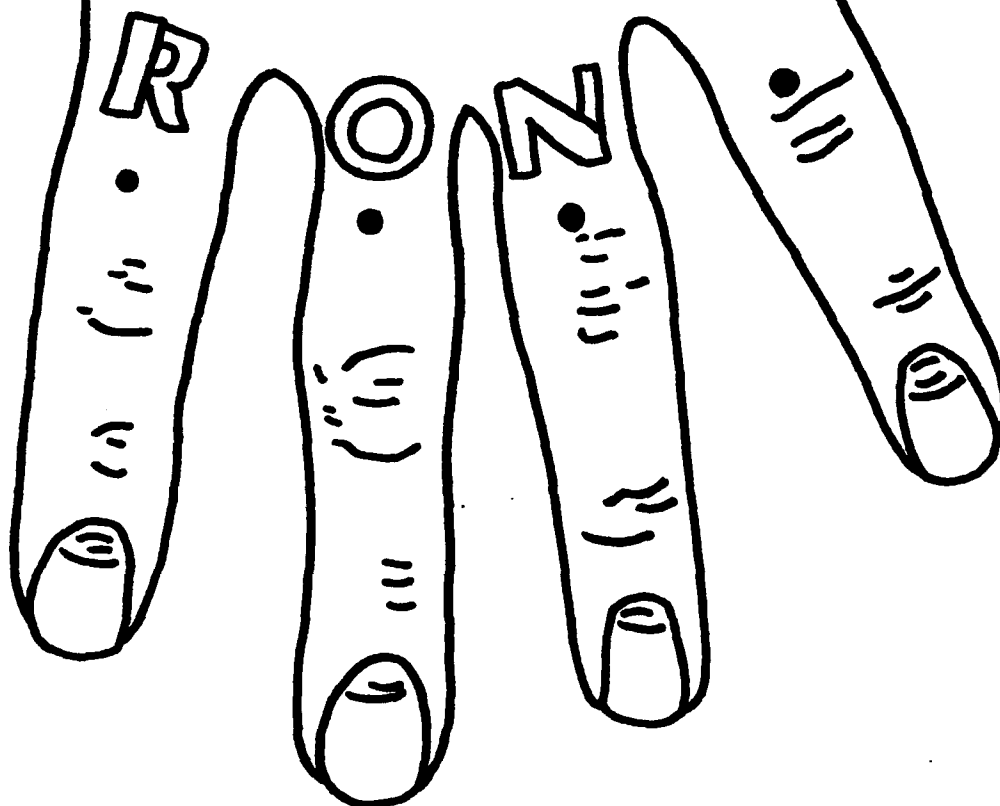
## Examples of Hand Tattoos

Homemade or prison type tattoos  
are becoming more popular.



Quarter burns and cigarette burns are  
commonly found on Asian gangsters.

Name, moniker, initials or gang name.



# CUBAN INCARCERATION TATTOOS "MARIELITOS"



• •  
• •  
• •  
HABITUAL  
CRIMINAL

• •  
• •  
MURDER

• • •  
ROBBER

≡  
DRUG  
DEALER

✕  
SUPPLIER OF  
WEAPONS, CARS  
EQUIPMENT

⤴  
ENFORCER,  
HITMAN,  
BODY GUARD

• •  
LARCENY

•  
NON SUPPORTER  
ANTI-CASTRO

≡  
★  
KIDNAP

♥  
MADRE  
EXECUTIONER

≡  
MONEY-LOANS  
COUNTERFEIT

JKONG

## **Appendix III**

### **Graffiti and Its Significance**





# **Graffiti and Its Significance**

## **(Examples from Around the Country)**

Graffiti is used extensively by Black, Hispanic, and Mexican Nationalist gangs to mark their territory, advertise their existence or claim credit for a crime and to serve notice and warning to all interlopers and intruders. (Graffiti is extremely important to read!) Hispanic and Mexican Nationalist graffiti differ from Black graffiti because of the script style. Black graffiti is usually crude, although West Coast Black graffiti is usually more graphic. The Skinheads also use graffiti.

### **Black Gang Graffiti**

Most black gangs fall into one of two main groups: Crips and Bloods. Crip gangs, as a rule, are enemies of the Blood gangs, although not all Crip gangs get along with each other.

Black graffiti is not as uniform as Hispanic graffiti, but is read in the same manner, left to right, top to bottom. Black gangs more often use the slant sign (/) for a spacer. The numbers 1, 2, and 3 are often replaced with the terms Ace, Duce, and Trey (often spelled tray). They will also reverse and invert letters in a word or group of letters. It is not uncommon for words to be misspelled. If any graffiti is written upside-down, it shows disrespect to that gang and was written by an opposing gang.

A reader of black gang graffiti may need to rewrite what he/she sees on paper to fully understand the message left by a gang member(s). The graffiti is as easily readable as a newspaper once the more common terms are clear. The following is a dictionary of some of the more commonly used terms:

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
BK	Blood killer
CK	Crip killer
CMG	Crenshaw Mafia Gangsters (Bloods)
Crab (Krab)	Crip gang member
Erickett	Crip gang member
E/S	East side
killla	killer

Loc (Lo, Locc)	loco, crazy, insane
187	California penal code for homicide
RIP	tombstone memorializing dead gang members
Slob or Shup	derogatory for Blood gang member
30s	Rollin 30 Crips
W/S	West side

Crips will cross out the letters B and P, and Bloods will cross out the letter C as a threat or sign of disrespect to the rival gang.

Therefore, if C-187 was observed, it would mean Crip killer and would be painted in red, black, or green. D.C.C. SLOB KILLA would mean Dog City Crips are Blood killers.

T-LOC BK 24-7 means that T-Loc, a gang member, is a Blood killer 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Adapted from *Reading Guide for Black Gang Graffiti*, Lakewood, Colorado Police Department

### Examples of Gang Graffiti

C R ! 9  
4  
L I F E

Crip for Life - The "R" and the "P" have been reversed and the "T" is upside down.

BLACK  
HOLE  
90\$#3 .

Black Hole Posse - A Crip gang. Again, the maker of this graffiti reversed several letters. The "B" has been crossed out due to its relationship with the Bloods.

B.H.P.

LAKE  
WOOD  
GANGSTERS

Lakewood Gangsters - The tongs on the pitchfork are turned up. The "S" has been made into a dollar sign, symbolic of drugs available in the area.

## An Example of Crip Gang Graffiti

SLOB TRIGGER 33RD O.G.  
E/S 33RD CYCO 33 O.G. \$8 BALL  
CRIP CUZZ  
GANGSTERS CRIPS  
TREY TREY DDP#1

SLOB - Crips' nickname for a Blood gang member. Again, the "B" has been crossed out as a threat or sign of disrespect to the rival gang.

E/S - East Side.

33RD ST - 33rd (or trey trey) Street Crips.

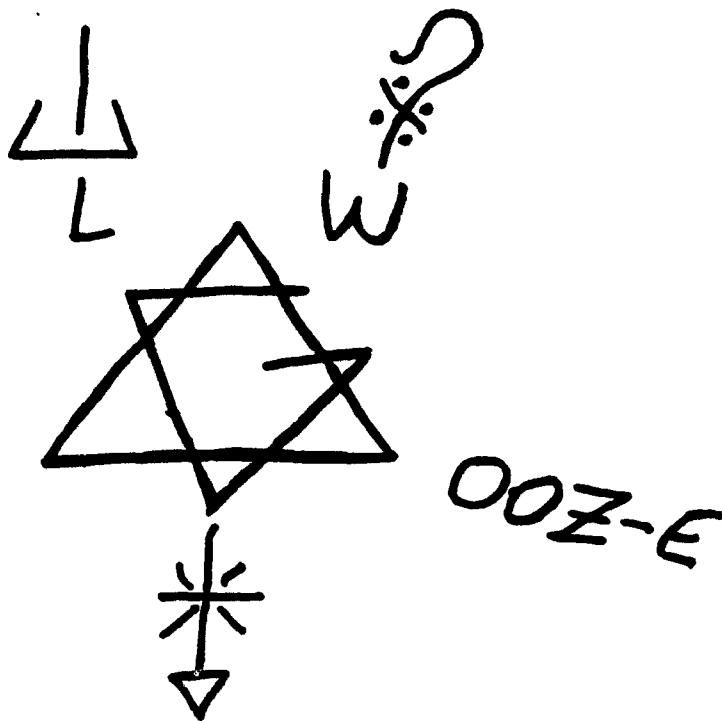
CUZZ - A name that the Crips call themselves.

TRIGGER and CYCO - Street names for the 33rd Street Crips who put up this graffiti.

O.G. - Stands for Original Gangster. This symbol is usually reserved for the older and most daring of the gang members.

\$ - An indication that the 33rd Street Crips distribute crack cocaine.

8 Ball - A chunk of crack cocaine (approximately  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an ounce).



LWG - Lakewood Gangster. Includes a pitchfork with the tongs turned up, an upright cane or staff, and a six pointed star with one part of the star drawn as the letter "G." Ooz-e is the tag for the gang member responsible for writing the graffiti.

## BURLIEGH POSSE

KHALID

DEON

MOO-MAN

RIFF RAFF

DANIEL

LIMAN

ROBERT

Lil WILLIE

Lil REJ

MARSHALL

JEROME

SOLLIE

KELAS

DAVID

SHAWN

ERIC

CORY

Burliegh Posse - An example of a roll call identifying all the members of the gang or posse. This roll call is a mixture of monikers (nicknames) and first names.

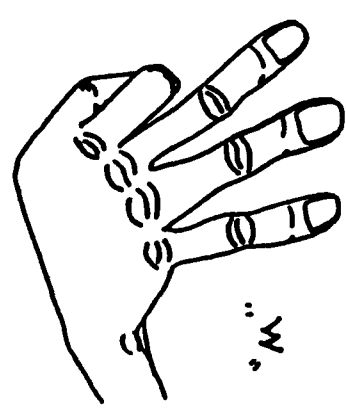
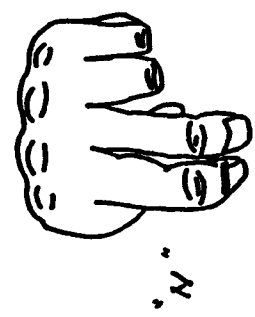
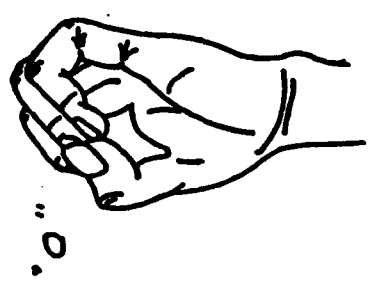
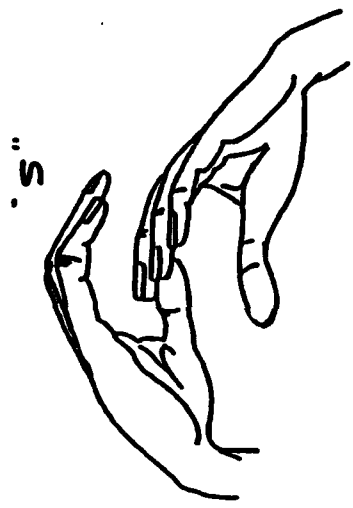
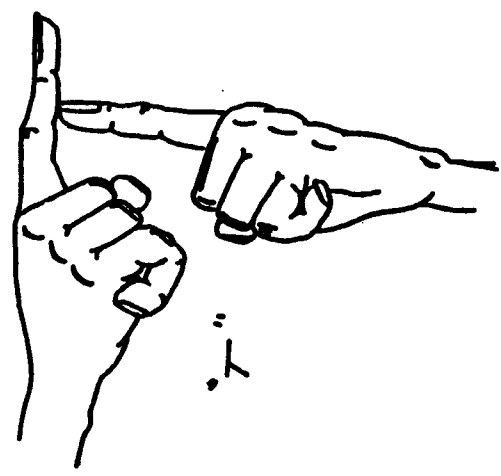
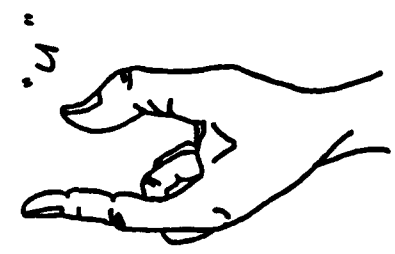
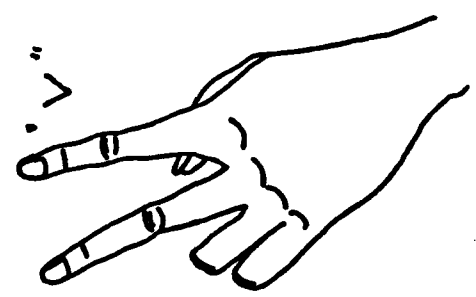
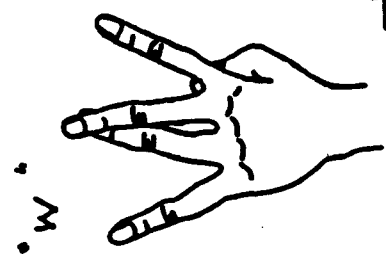


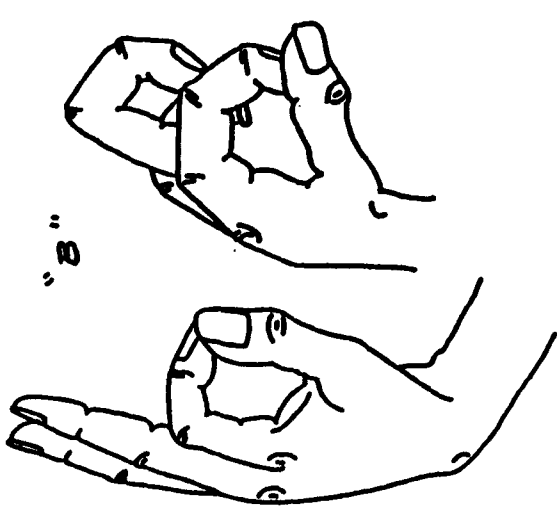
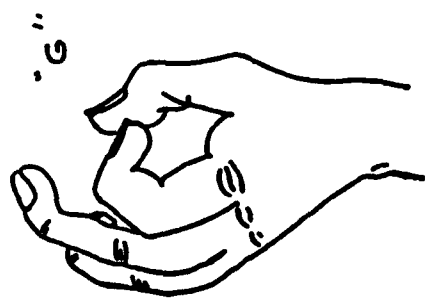
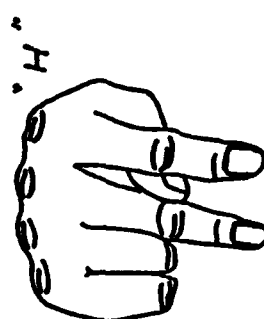
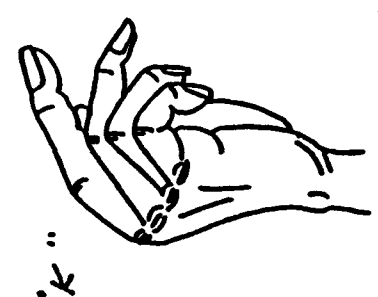
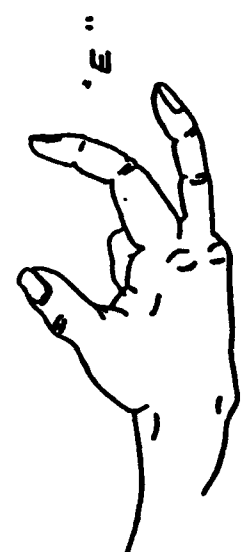
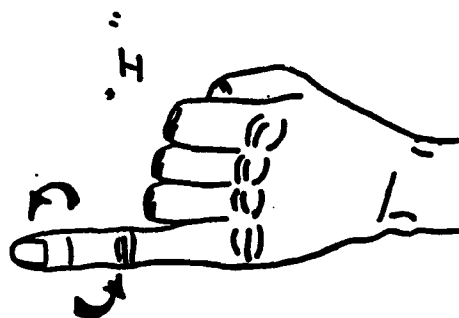
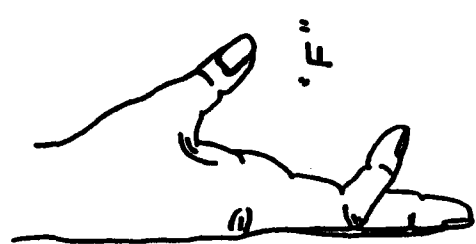
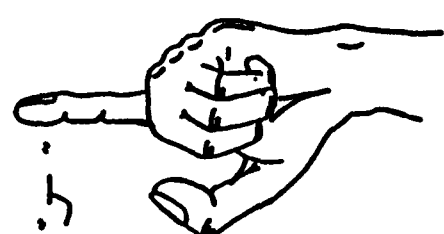
## **Appendix IV**

### **Hand-signs**

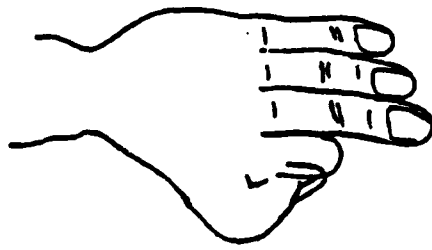






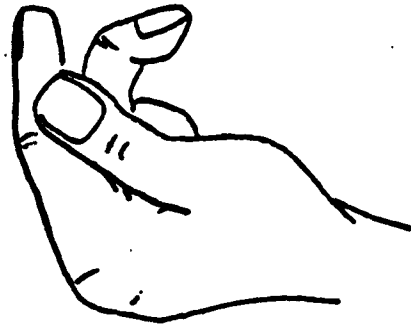


PIRU SIGN

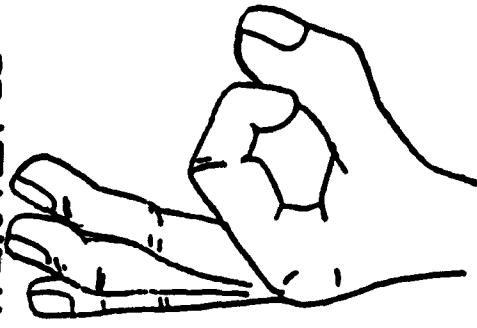


"BLOOD"

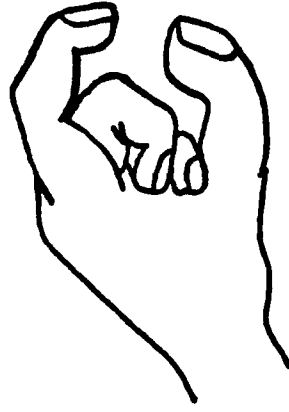
KITCHEN  
CRIP



BOUNTY  
HUNTERS

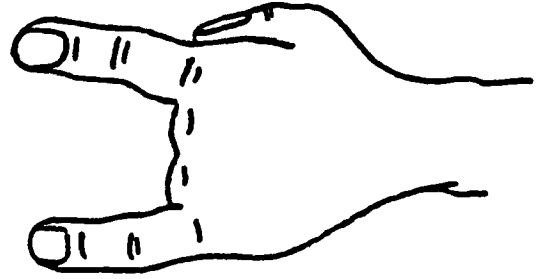


CRIPS

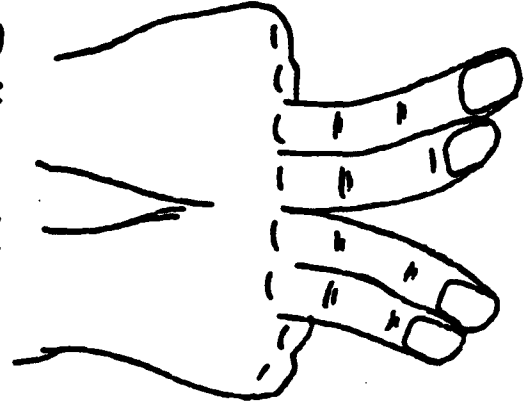


"COUSIN"

BRIMS



MAFIA CRIPS



ATHENS PARK



BOYS

A.P.B.'s

AKRONO



## **Appendix V**

### **Prison and Gang Terms**



## **Prison and Gang Terms**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
ace kool	best friend, backup
all beamed up	in red and black
all is one	a term used by the Disciples
all is well	a term used by the Vice Lords
a shooter	use of force or firearms by a "crazy"
ballin'	making big money
bank	money, bank roll
barrio or varrio	the neighborhood of a particular gang
base head	person hooked on cocaine
beemer	BMW vehicle
benzo	Mercedes Benz
bickin' it	kicking back, relaxing
BK	Blasting Krabs, Blood Kingdom
blast	shoot a gun, throw a punch
blob	Crips' nickname for Blood gang member
Blood	Piru, non-Crip, family, bounty hunter, etc.
blunt	big fat joint
bo	marijuana
boastin'	talking loud, bluffing

boned out	quit, chickened out, left
boo boo	color "blue"
book	run, get away, leave
boxed up	beat down
break	run, get away, leave
breakdown	shotgun
bucket	old junker car
bud	marijuana
bullet	one year in custody
bumper kit	girl's butt
bumping titties	fighting
busted, popped a cap	shot at someone
buster	young guy trying to be a gang member, or someone who leaves one set, goes to another
busting	involved in a violent act such as fighting
cabbage patch	popular dance
c-dogs	homies
check it out	listen to what I have to say
chill out	stop it, don't do that
choette	a firearm
choias	the police
CK all day	kill Krabs (Crips) all day
CK-mob	go somewhere to start trouble
clownin'	having fun, amusing others



chuck	cocaine smokes
colors	gang colors. This could be a handkerchief, gym shoe/lace, etc.
colum or commercial	Columbian marijuana
coolin'	kicking back, relaxing
courting in	initiation into the gang
courting out	expulsion from the gang
Crab (or Krab)	Bloods' nickname for Crip gang member
cragared down	low-rider type car, or gang banger
crank	a mentally unstable person
crumbs	tiny pieces of rock cocaine
Cuz	Crip
Cuzz	a Crip, also affectionate nickname for Crip
"D"	drugs
dead rag	red rag
deft	looking good
demonstration	gang fight
deuce & a quarter	Buick 225 vehicle
deuce, deuce	.22 caliber gun
dime speed	10-speed bicycle
dis	disrespect, no respect
dissin'	being disrespectful
do a ghost	leave the scene
donuts	Vice Lord term used to "put-down"

double deuce	the Disciples
down for mine	.22 caliber gun
drag, mack, rush	ability to protect self
draped	ability to sweet talk girls
driz biz	wearing a lot of gold jewelry
drop a dime	drive-by
dropping the flag	snitch or tell on someone
drop sacks	leaving the gang
duckets	bailer giving drugs to servers
dumb blond	money
durage	always clumsy
dusted	handkerchief wrapped around head
eastly	under the influence of PCP, known as "angel dust"
8-ball	beastly, very ugly person
8-track	quarter ounce of dope or Old English 40 oz.
8-tray	2 1/2 grams of cocaine
ends	83
esseys	money
everything is everything	Mexicans
federated	it's alright
finger bangers	Crips' disrespect for the color red
firing on someone	people talking shit
	throwing a punch or shooting

5.0	1988 Mustang
500	BMW
flake, or "rooty pooh"	booty hide
flashlight	undecided member
flaunt dice	to start crap game
flowers	female Cobra Stone
flue rag	blue rag
fly	good looking
flying your colors	representing gang colors
folks	disciples and their affiliates
four five	.45 caliber
49'ers	49 erickets running scared (Crips)
freak	good looking girl
fresh	good looking, clean
friew	someone blue, Crip
frog	girl with low moral standards (jumps into anyone's car)
gaffle	police messing with someone
game	criminal act
gang banger	gang member
gang banging	gang activity, or involved in gang activity
gat	gauge, deuce-deuce, gun
gauge	gun
g'd up	dressed up in colors

## GEAR

geek

get a dime

get down

get jammed

gig

glass house

got it goin' on

g-ride

grip

gump

gun-up

head hunter, strawberry

he's from nowhere

holding down

holding it down

homeboy

homeboy, homegirl, homes, homey

hooch

hood

## Gangsters Eliminate All 'Rickets (Crips)

someone who is high, loaded

get some business

fight

to be accosted

gathering

'77-'78 Chevy

successful person or function

gangster ride in stolen car, or stolen car

lots of money or time

a homosexual

getting ready to fight, usually  
"boxing"

a female who does sexual acts for  
cocaine

non-member of a gang

controlling area

gang members controlling their  
area, turf, wing, dorm, etc.

someone from the same gang. A  
friend, comrade or fellow associate.

fellow gang member

an alcoholic beverage made by  
fermenting a sugary syrup or liquid  
and bread.

neighborhood

hook	phony or imitation
hook, trick	phony or sissy
hoopla	car
hoopty	car
hoo-rah	loud talking
hubba	rock cocaine
hustler, player	not into gangs, an individual just out to make money
illing, illin'	making mental mistakes
insane rain	mixed drinks
in the mix	involved in gang activity
jacked-up	beat up or assaulted
jammed	confronted
Jim Jones	marijuana joint laced with cocaine, dipped in PCP
jiving	attempting to fool someone
juiced, lifts	vehicle has hydraulics to raise and lower car
KC	Killing Crabs, Krabs (Crips)
kibbles and bits	crumbs of cocaine
kicking back	relaxing, killing time
kick you down	give you something, set you up in drug trade
kite	a letter
kite in the wind	a letter in the mail
KKK	Krazy Krab Killa (Crips)

kool	It's all right
laces	chrome, spoke rims
lady	girlfriend
la hura	the police
L.A. Raiders	running around Denver, Erickets running scared
legit	for real, proper
let's bail	let's leave
let's go ride on somebody	to seek someone out as a target
lifts, juiced	vehicle has hydraulics to raise and lower car
liquid juice, sherm, wack	PCP
lit up	shot at
lizard butt	ugly girl
locs	dark sunglasses, whole bunch of ponytails
lollipop sucker	wimp
love	rock cocaine
low rider	a minority individual involved in gang activity
mack, drag, rush	ability to sweet talk girls
mackin'	talking to girls
main man	best friend, back-up
making bank	making money
man	cop
mark	wannabee gang member

minutemen	boys in Texas who "go down" for selling drugs and are released in 24 hours
mission	contract hit, terrorize rival neighborhood
mob	jump someone with others
mobile	proper, nice looking
molded, scratched	embarrassed
Monte C	Monte Carlo vehicle
movin' things	selling drugs
mud duck	ugly girl
murder 8	.38 gun
new boodie	new to the set
N.I.K.E.	Niggers 'Illin Killin' Erickets
nut up	angry, mad at someone
O/G	original gangster
on fire	all in red
on spook	scared of something
on the pipe	freebasing cocaine
on the strengths	based on these facts
one time	police
packing, packin'	gang member has a weapon on him, usually a gun
pay back	vendetta or retaliation of a former wrong
peanut butter	Crips' disrespect for Bloods
pimped out	not into gangs, strictly out to make money

pink toe	white person
placa	graffiti that identifies a particular gang
player	cheats on girls, individual interested solely in girls
popped a cap, busted	shot at someone
posse	east coast term for gang
primo	marijuana joint laced with cocaine
puffer	cocaine smoker
pugging	fighting
pulling you on	making a fool of you
put 'em in check	discipline someone
put in work	hurt someone
put that on the set	to validate what you're saying is true
quoted	put in the set
rag	color of gang, bandanna, handkerchief or scarf
raise	leave
raising up	coming up in the gang
recruiting	looking for good looking girls
red eye	hard stare
relative	Bloods' term for homeboys
ride	car
ride on, rode on	go to another rival neighborhood in vehicles to attack other gangs
rifa	when used in a placa it means "we control"



righteous	true or affirmative answer
R.I.P.	Rest In Pain, or "Crip"
road dog	close friend
robo cop	popular dance
rock	crystallized cocaine
rock star	cocaine prostitute
roll 'em up	arrested, forced out of scene
rollin'	doing well, have a nice car
rollin' deep	car full of people
roll out	leave
rooster	Piru (Blood)
roscoe	firearm, usually handgun
Ru	Piru (Blood)
ruca	female comrade or associate, girlfriend, wife
scandalous	dead beat person, bad person
sell out	leave
serve	sell drugs
set	neighborhood
sherm, wack, or liquid juice	PCP
sherned	high on PCP
shotcaller	person in charge
six-deuce	62
sixty (60)	sissy
skeezer	ugly girl

sling or slang	deals or sells cocaine
slob	Crips' nickname for Blood gang member and "Super Loked Out Blood"
smoker	person who smokes cocaine
snake	popular dance
snaps	money
snow bunny	a white girl
space base	PCP, rock cocaine
springs	vehicles
sprung	a person addicted to cocaine
squab	fight, argue
SRIW	Super Race Is White
Sup?	What's up, What's going on?
surfer	white individual involved in gang activity
taking smack	aggressive talking
ten-five	105
tray eight	.38 caliber gun
trick, hook	phoney or sissy
trip	too much, something else
varrio or barrio	the neighborhood of a particular gang
vatos	Spanish s means guys
wack	PCP
wacked	high on PCP

Where you from?  
What set are you from?

a way of asking for gang  
identification



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Rockville, MD 20850  
800-666-3332

Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse  
Box 6000  
Rockville, MD 20850  
800-638-8736

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers  
700 Rush Street  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-782-0977

National Crime Prevention Council  
1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor  
Washington, DC 20006-3817  
202-466-6272

National School Safety Center  
4165 Thousand Oaks Boulevard  
Westlake Village, CA 91362  
805-373-9977

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